



Marines urged to 'be disaster aware, take action to prepare' during National Preparedness Month

What would you do if a tornado struck your neighborhood when your children are at school and you and your partner are at work? Do you have a plan in place to contact family members when telephone lines are not operational or jammed? Where would you meet your family if the streets around your house were blocked off in an emergency situation? Do you have an emergency supply kit stocked with food, water and clothing in your car or at work in case you cannot go home?

Disasters can strike at any time and in any place. Knowing which disasters can possibly strike your community, and planning for them, can make a big difference in staying safe during and after a disaster. That's the goal of the National Preparedness Month, which is being observed in September.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in conjunction with the Department of Defense (DoD), is encouraging all civilians, service members and their families to participate in National Preparedness Month by learning which disasters may strike their community, how to prepare for them and how to stay safe when they occur. The goal of NPM is to raise awareness of the importance of emergency preparedness. This year's theme is "Be disaster aware, take action to prepare."

Around the country and throughout the Marine Corps, organizations and individuals are taking part in America's PrepareAthon!, which culminates with the Sept. 30 National PrepareAthon! Day of Action.

In support of National Preparedness Month, the Marine Corps Installations Command (MCICOM) Installation Protection (IP) Branch with the G-3/5/7 has created a package of helpful materials for MCICOM regions and installations to use in their National Preparedness Month activities and events. Those materials include:

- The presidential proclamation of National Preparedness Month (http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2014/0914_national-preparedness/2014preparednessmonth.prc.rel.pdf)
- Deputy Secretary of Defense National Preparedness Month memo
- The National Preparedness Month Digital Toolkit for use by installation PAOs for conducting social media preparedness campaigns (http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1408033424313-d42b070b8192950cb9353b9e61a53d28/NPM%20Digital%20Toolkit_2014_508pass.pdf)
- MCICOM National Preparedness Month Poster (<http://www.mcicom.marines.mil/Portals/57/NPM%20poster.pdf>)
- Three MCICOM preparedness trifold with useful planning information. The trifold address general preparedness, creating a family emergency plan and developing an emergency supply kit. (<http://www.mcicom.marines.mil/Portals/57/Docs/NPM%20preparedness%20trifold.pdf> ,



Marine Corps Installations Command (MCICOM)
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<http://www.mcicom.marines.mil/Portals/57/Docs/NPM%20emergency%20plan%20trifold.pdf> ,
<http://www.mcicom.marines.mil/Portals/57/Docs/NPM%20disaster%20kit%20trifold.pdf>)

MCICOM regions and installations are continuously developing emergency management plans and coordinating emergency response exercises for the major tenant commands and emergency responses aboard their installations. NPM expands on those planning efforts by educating Marine Corps personnel how to disaster plan on an individual, family and community level.